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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0966
INFO USDEL PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16229

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA ONE AND TWO

SUBJ: COMMENT TO PRESS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULT

REF: A. STATE 183241
B. SAIGON 16207
C. SAIGON 16004
D. STATE 182349

1. WE CAN AS YET GIVE NO RELIABLE ESTIMATE AS TO WHEN PRESIDENT THIEU WILL MAKE ANOTHER STATEMENT ON THE ELECTION. ONE OCCASION FOR IT WOULD BE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMAL VALIDATION OF THE ELECTION BY THE SUPREME COURT WHICH ACCORDING TO LAW MUST TAKE ACTION BY OCTOBER 26.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THE COURT NOW PLANS TO MEET ON OCT 19 TO CONSIDER THE TWO PENDING CHALLENGES (REF C) AND THEN TO VALIDATE THE ELECTION, BUT WE HAVE NO ESTIMATE OF HOW LONG THE COURT WILL BE ENGAGED IN THESE MATTERS BEFORE MAKING ITS FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. DEPENDING ON INTERVENING DEVELOPMENTS IT MAY BE FEASIBLE TO STAND ON WHAT WAS SAID BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE OCT 5 (REF D) AND DEFER ANY FURTHER MESSAGE OR PRESS STATEMENT UNTIL THE INAUGURATION WHEN WE COULD CONCENTRATE ON GOOD WISHES AND CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO OCT 3

(1)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DATE 12/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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ELECTION.
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